(b) if so, the nature of such complaints received during the last three years and in the current year, so far;

(c) whether any stern action has been taken to deal with these complaints to end the ongoing corruption in the export and import trade sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The nature of Complaints received against officials and lower level employees of STC during the last three years and in the current year broadly relate to:—

—Irregularities in commercial deals.

—Fraud and misappropriation of funds.

—Misuse of official vehicle.

—Irregular release of payments against bogus bills.

—Misuse of official position, powers manipulation and negligence.

—Tampering of official sanctions etc.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. To curb the tendency of corruption and malpractices in STC, the tenure of a senior appointee was not extended. In certain cases, persons *prima facie* found guilty have been put under suspension pending of final outcome of the investigations. In cases, where departmental inquiries have been completed; based on the-findings and keeping in view the magnitude of irregularities committee, appropriate penalties such as withholding of increment, and reduction to lower stage in the time scale of pay have been imposed.

Export of Ayurvedic Drugs

1217. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the plea of the Ayurvedic drug industry for review of the order banning export of even those ayurvedic drugs including chayavanprash whose formulation does not contain extracts from any plants of the banned list; and

(b) the final decision of Government on their plea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Earlier there were 53 species of plants in the banned list and exports of these specific plants, plant portions and their derivatives and extracts, obtained from the wild, were prohibited. After intensive discussions, the above list of 53 plants species has now been reduced to 29 species with effect from 13.4.98. Plants and plant portions and their derivatives and extracts made from these 29 species of plants, obtained from the wild, is prohibited for exports. However those obtained from cultivated/imported sources are freely allowed for exports subject to production of a Certificate of Cultivation and CITES (the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species) Permit for export, wherever applicable.

Ayurvedic drugs whose formulations do not contain extracts from any of the 29 specified plants in the banned list are freely allowed for exports.

Review of Marrakesh Treaty

1218. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh negotiations are proposed to be undertaken with the World Trade Orgnisation for reviewing some of the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty that have'relevance to developing countries;

(b) whether, before aproaching the WTO, the view of State Governments will be sought in matters which fall within the constitutional jurisdiction of the States; and

(c) whether it is proposed to set up a committee of technologists, economists